could be done, and for that, the relative needs to be counselled. If some coma patient is there, these counsellors have to go and talk to his relatives. A lot of things have been done, and efforts have been made. This Rs. one crore money is for an initial concepts, and definitely, we are going to set up mroe ORBOs. Setting up of one ORBO will cost the Government literally about seven to ten crores of rupees. So, we are trying to set up these ORBOs initially in the four Metros and, then, we are going to expand them in other parts of the country.

Decline in cultivable land

*364. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that *per capita* availability of cultivable land in the country has declined from 0.27 hectares in 1980 to 0.16 hectares in 2005;

(b) if so, how the Central Government are persuading the States to formulate suitable legislation to bring more and more land under cultivation and use less agriculture land for non-agricultural purposes such as roads, industries, etc; and

(c) to what extent Government's Watershed Development Programmes such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity in Degraded lands, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, etc. have helped it in bringing more and more area under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates, the per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980-81 to 0.17 ha in 2004-05 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. There is a marginal decline in agricultural land from 185.09 million ha. in 1980-81

to 183.09 million ha. in 2004-05. During the same period, land under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 19.66 million ha. to 24.45 million ha.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land and Water falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use Boards (SLUBs) through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). Under this Programme, State Governments have been advised to bring suitable legislation to prevent use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders relating to diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivations Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan, an area of about 50.83 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed as per scheme-wise details given in Statement-I (*See* below).

Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses as evident from Land Use Statistics given in Statement-II (*See* below). Inspite of an increase of about 5.00 million ha. in non-agricultural uses, the net sown area has increased by about 1.06 million ha. from 1980-91 to 2004-05. Similarly, the barren lands have been reduced by about 2.22 million ha. in the same period. Culturable waste land has also decreased by about 2.5 million ha. in the same period. The forest area has increased by about 2.00 million ha. during this period.

Statement-I

Degraded Lands Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan

(Area in lakh ha. and expenditure in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Ministry/Scheme and year of start	Progress since inception upto IX Plan		Progress during X Plan* (2002-07)		Progress since inception upto end of X Plan*	
		Area	**Expr.**	**Area**	**Expr.**	**Area**	**Expr.**
Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)							
1.	NWDPRA (1990-91)	69.79	1877.74	23.30	1147.82	93.09	3025.56
2.	RVP & FPR (1962 & 81)	54.88	1516.26	9.98	727.98	64.86	2244.24
3.	WDPSCA (1974-75)	2.58	166.27	1.35	129.31	3.93	295.58
4.	RAS (1985-86)	5.81	76.39	1.30	45.35	7.11	121.74
5.	WDF (1990-00)	0.00	0.00	0.59	26.02	0.59	26.02
6.	EAPs	13.35	2039.81	4.80	1927.54	18.15	3967.35
	Sub Total	**146.41**	**5876.47**	**41.32**	**4004.02**	**187.73**	**9680.49**
Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)							
1.	DPAP (1973-74)	68.95	3284.74	68.32	1557.76	137.27	4842.50
2.	DDP (1977-78)	33.56	797.38	45.17	1152.50	78.73	1949.88
3.	IWDP (1988-89)	37.34	616.51	62.22	1821.64	99.56	2438.15
4.	EAPs	1.40	18.39	3.60	274.28	5.00	292.67
	Sub Total	**141.25**	**4717.02**	**179.31**	**4806.18**	**320.56**	**9523.20**
	Total (A+B)	287.66	10393.49	220.63	8810.20	508.29	19203.69

* Includes tentative achievement of 2006-07.

Abbreviations:

NWDPRA - National Wateshed Development Project for Rainfed Area

RVP & FPR - River Valley Project & Flood Prone River

WDPSCA - Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area

RAS - Reclamation of Alkali Soil
WDF - Watershed Development Fund
EAPs - Externally Aided Projects
DPAP - Drought Prone Area Programme
DDP - Desert Development Programme
IWDP - Integrated Wasteland Development Project

SOURCE: Working Group Report of Natural Resource Management for Eleventh Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, New Delhi, Feb., 2007.

Statement-II

Land Use Statistics in India

(Area in million ha.)

Sl. No.	Type of Land Uses	Extent of Area	
		1980-81	2004-05
1.	Forests	67.47	69.67
2.	Type & Extent of Cultivable Area		
	Net Sown Area	140.00	141.06
	Fallow land other than curent fallows	9.92	10.76
	Current Fallows	14.83	14.69
	Culturable Waste Land	16.74	13.22
	Land under miscellaneous free crops	3.60	3.36
	Total cultivable/culturable land	185.09	183.09
3.	*Population in million*	684.00	1095.00
4.	Per capita availability of land (total cultivable land/population)	0.27 ha	0.17 ha.
5.	Not available for cultivation		
	Area under Non-Agricultural Uses	19.66	24.45
	Barren and Un-culturable Land	19.96	17.74

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, the *per capita* availability of cultivable land in the country is declining gradually and it has resulted in decreases in agricultural produce. The area under pulses cultivation has showed a

continuous decline during the last three years and it is one of the main causes for the high rise in the prices of essential commodities. Apart from this, the Government is planning to set up more than 300 SEZs in the country, for which a section of trade and industry has taken a sudden liking. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is implementing the views expressed by Dr. Swaminathan, Chairman of the National Commission on Farmers, that instead of setting up SEZs the Government should plan to set up Agriculture Development Zones.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, as I have already stated in the House, a final decision on Dr. Swaminathan Commission Report is yet to be taken. A meeting has been called on 29th May to take a final view on this.

Regarding per capita availability of the cultivable land, as I have mentioned in my reply, it is true that the availability of the cultivable land has declined in the year 2004-05 because of population pressure. In fact, we have to give a serious thought to this issue. Out of 106 crores population, 64 per cent of the population is depending on agriculture. That is why there is tremendous distribution of land; there is also fragmentation of land and the holding is coming down. That is one of the reasons why some of the farmers are taking some extreme steps like suicide. Therefore, I have written to the State Governments that the time has come to give a serious thought to the holding. Unless and until we shift the pressure on land and agriculture to other sectors, agriculture will not be viable in its true sense.

A specific question was raised about pulses. Pulses are totally rainfed crops and for those crops which are totally dependent on uncertain monsoon, the farmers do not get proper price. That is why there is a tendency among the farmers to avoid this type of pulses. We have taken a massive programme for expansion of the area under pulses and, with a lot of financial support, we expect from this kharif onwards the area under pulses will definitely be expanded.

SHRI N.P. DURGA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. How many State Governments have given their consent to formulate a suitable legislation to bring more and more land under cultivation and to reduce use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes? The Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes for the development of degraded land for increasing production potential. Under

these programmes, how much land has been developed in the last five years, especially, in the State of Andhra Pradesh? How much funds were allocated for these programmes? I would like to know whether the Government is using remote sensing technology to identify land resources.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, with the implementation of various schemes to make the wasteland into cultivable land, five crore hectares of wasteland has been developed, improved and brought under cultivation and because of that the net sown area has been increased.

A specific question about Andhra Pradesh has been raised. I don't have that information. But I can give some information about the money that has been spent under various schemes. In fact, since the inception of the Tenth Plan, the total amount of money that has been spent for the development of land under various schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Development through the State Governments, in Rs. 19,203 crores.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, it is a very serious problem. The net sown area and *per capita* land for cultivation is coming down and as a result of this the country's food safety is under threat and the *per capita* availability of foodgrain is also under threat. In such a situation, how do you plan to safeguard this? This year, the total production of both wheat and rice is less than what we have produced in 1999-2000. In such a situation, what is the stand taken by the Government to ensure food security and to increase the *per capita* availability of foodgrains?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, an example has been given about production of food, especially of wheat, this year. I am sorry to say that that is not correct. This year, the production of wheat has gone up to 73.6 million tonnes; it was 69 million tonnes last year.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I told you about 1999-2000.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Continuously, except last year, the production is, definitely, improving. The real issue is of proper price, remunerative price. Unless and until remunerative price is given to the farmers, the farmers do have reservations, and I do not blame them. Here the solution to improved production is to substantially invest in agriculture through public and private sector. In fact, the initial question which was put here and which I have also answered is that in the last 10 years, sufficient

Budgetary allocation was not made for this particular sector. Hardly 2 per cent of the GDP was provided for agriculture while 64 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture. Hardly .35 per cent of money was provided for irrigation while 60 per cent of the agricultural land is dependent on erratic monsoon. We had to change this position.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, the situation is not just serious but I think, it is alarming. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for having given a detailed reply. He has stated in the reply that the cultivable land is decreasing. And, as he has mentioned rightly, as per the Seventh Schedule, water and land is a State subject. My point of query is that there is contradiction in the policy. Number one is that we do talk about it that the cultivable land is decreasing, but when the population is increasing, we have more mouths to feed. Sir, the figure, which is available, is up to 2005. Beyond 2005, the SEZs have come. So, obviously, the situation has taken an alarming turn. My first supplementary is this. What is the latest figure? If you have it now, you can kindly give, or, maybe, you can give it later on. Number two is this. You have rightly said that you have various schemes under SLUB. This is a Centrally sponsored scheme where you are asking the States to come up with a legislation to stop the convertibility of land. At the same time, the Centre is giving permission for SEZs. This contradiction has to stop somewhere. Today the farmers are committing suicide. But the day will come when the farmers are going to revolt and take the lives of the people. Like, we have seen in Nandigram and Singur. In Singur, you are allowing the Tata Motors...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: What is the question and what is he mentioning? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow him. Why are you disturbing? *(interruptions)* No; this is wrong. I won't allow ...*(interruptions)*... Please take your seat. Why are you so much agitated? The Minister will reply ...*(interruptions)*... Please take your seat. This is not good ...*(interruptions)*... आप नन्दीग्राम के नाम से चिढ़ते क्यों हैं? नन्दीग्राम का नाम लिया और ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्य, यह गलत है। ...(व्यवधान)... No; I have allowed him. माननीय सदस्य, मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि नन्दीग्राम पर आप बोलने क्यों नहीं देते? नन्दीग्राम का नाम लिया है, और तो कुछ किया नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... तो फिर ठीक है, किस्सा खत्म हुआ। ...(व्यवधान)... Please take your seat. This is not good. I won't allow you. Nothing will go on record ...*(interruptions)*... Please take your seat. Let him speak.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: The reason why they are not allowing is that they are guilty of killing farmers ...*(interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you so much agitated? ...*(interruptions)*... ठीक है, आप क्वेश्चन कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए। बिना मेरी अनुमति के कुछ रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएगा। त्रिवेदी जी, आप बोलिए। अपना क्वेश्चन जल्दी खत्म कीजिए।

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: My query is this: What is the Central Government doing to stop this unfair practice by several State Governments, especially, the Government of West Bengal?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, take your seats. Don't be so irritated. Otherwise, Nandigram will be a problem for your ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, it is a problem for the country.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is a question that was asked regarding a particular State. The Government of India has not taken any decision regarding a particular State. The Ministry of Agriculture has communicated to the concerned authorities that we have no objection to acquisition of land for any public purpose, provided that land is not cultivable. If that land yields two crops, it should be avoided; irrigated land should be avoided; only barren land, which is a wasteland, should be acquired for industry, SEZs and so on. *(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal. ...*(interruptions)*... No, I won't allow. ...*(interruptions)*... No, nothing will go on record. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal. ...*(interruptions)*... Please, take your seats.

चीनी के निर्यात पर राज-सहायता

*365. श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल: क्या उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने चीनी के निर्यात पर राज-सहायता देने का फैसला किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इससे सरकार पर कितना वित्तीय-भार पड़ने की संभावना है?

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जा रहा है।